

Wellington Weekly

31st May 2024



Master's Voice

Dear Parents,

I hope this edition of the Wellington Weekly finds you well.

For Term 3, we returned to School on Thursday 11th April and I have been reflecting on how

much the pupils, and teachers, have achieved in these intervening weeks. It has certainly been a most productive period and in the absence of a proper half-term break, I must commend the ongoing endeavours of everyone in the school community. On a personal note, I always strive to remind young people and colleagues of the need for perspective, to search in life for the concept of the 'bigger picture' and to not be too weighed down by the micro matters, the nitty-gritty, that affect us all. In essence, I would contend, it is about encouraging pupils to seek and embrace resilience in all they undertake – a lesson that the pandemic unfortunately rather hammered home – and then to maintain balance and proportionality in their lives. With the added injection of kindness and empathy to all peers, I consider this approach to be wholly in tandem with our much vaunted College values.

Nevertheless, saying and believing in perspective and proportionality is one thing, modelling that behaviour is quite another trait altogether. And Headmasters are well known for failing to act upon, or mirror, their own advice and guidance! Thus, often I am consumed by the minutiae of life, such as organisational and infrastructure matters, without fully appreciating all the learning opportunities on my very doorstep. Therefore, I loved being brought down to earth on Thursday 30th May at the Early Years Taster event, as one of the Pre-Nursery pupils firmly requested my attention to lie on the floor, to be wrapped in a succession of small blankets and covered in miscellaneous objects...image below! Dutifully obeying the commands from a 2-year-old, I once again recognised my rightful place in the hierarchy of life (and the school!) and all the other issues on my mind evaporated immediately! Not for the first time, I reflected that schools are a superb leveller and that a day in the life of a Head, or indeed any teacher, is never ever dull and monotonous.



Of course, there is still much for pupils to experience and accomplish before the end of Term, on Thursday 27th June, and I very much look forward to all the events we have planned. To look

ahead to the next academic year, please find below the link for the overview of the main holiday dates for AY 2024-2025. We are subject to some unplanned declarations by the government (state and national), so it is always likely that some revisions may be needed. Please note that we have added two further days to the previously announced 2024 Diwali holiday – so Wednesday 30th October and Thursday 31st October will now also be holiday days, which I hope will offer greater alignment with other schools and businesses in Pune. The Diwali break will now run (inclusive) from Wednesday 30th October until Sunday 10th November, with school resuming on Monday 11th November. With the dates firmed up, I wanted to convey this to our families.

Academic Year Calendar 2024-25

Thank you, as always, for your support of the school – it is never taken for granted.

With best wishes,

Dr Murray

Early Years Coordinator

Dear Early Years Families,

I hope this letter finds you well.

The last few weeks have been incredibly eventful in the Early Years. Our children have been engaged in a variety of activities that have not only enhanced their learning experiences but also fostered a sense of community and collaboration across different year groups.

One of the highlights of this period has been our Reception and Nursery children spending their library sessions with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. During these sessions, our children have been choosing books they are interested in and exploring different areas of our beautiful campus to engage in shared reading with their older peers. For our younger children, being read to by older peers helps to enhance their listening skills, expand their vocabulary, and ignite a passion for reading. For the older pupils, this experience provides an opportunity to develop their leadership and mentoring skills. It allows them to take on a nurturing role, reinforcing their own reading and comprehension abilities while building confidence and empathy. We hope to continue this experience until the end of this year.

During Science Week, our children participated in a series of simple yet captivating experiments. They observed the fizzy reaction that occurs when vinegar is mixed with baking soda, and they were amazed by the soft, moldable texture created by combining hair conditioner with cornstarch. Through these authentic learning experiences, the children practiced essential science skills such as making observations, forming hypotheses, and recording results. They learned to ask questions, predict outcomes, and draw conclusions, fostering a sense of curiosity and a love for scientific exploration.

"Scientific observation then has established that education is not what the teacher gives; education is a natural process spontaneously carried out by the human individual, and is acquired not by listening to words but by experiences upon the environment."

— ***Maria Montessori (The Absorbent Mind)***

As we enter the final weeks of the year, our teachers are diligently preparing to conduct assessments and compile reports. We are immensely proud of the remarkable progress our pupils have made, and we look forward to celebrating their successes and achievements with you. In the final month of school, we have some exciting events planned, and I will be sharing more information about these soon. Thank you for your continued support and engagement in your children's education.

Best wishes,
Rashmi Dixon

Head of Junior School

Dear Parents,

This past week we have been reflecting on the progress and achievements our pupils have made throughout this academic year. Of course, their academic progress is carefully measured but equally important is the social and emotional developments we have seen and supported for pupils over the course of these three terms. We couldn't be prouder of our young people as they strive to learn and grow each day.

Children shared their own interpretations of what they have discovered recently during Sharing Learning Assembly this morning. It was pleasing to see how much they have grown in confidence, improved in public speaking and how much they have enjoyed their learning.



We will be sharing detailed reports of children's individual progress and outcomes with you in their End of Year reports, available on Tuesday, 25th June.

Kind regards,

Katie Byrne

Head of Senior School

Dear Parents,

I hope that this note finds you well. I would just like to take this opportunity to say how incredibly impressed I was with the contributions of the Senior School students during Science Week. I was utterly blown away by how they approached the Science Exhibition in particular, where they presented brilliantly, offering detailed and precise explanations of their experiments. It was certainly a very tough competition to judge!

As we move to the next phase of the summer term, attention quite rightly will focus on end of year assessments. It is important that students maintain a sense of perspective and do not put excessive pressure on themselves. They need to make sure that they are being proactive at managing their well-being - it is imperative that they get sufficient sleep, exercise regularly, and maintain a healthy diet over the coming weeks. I would urge them to continue to pursue the activities they love, whether this is sport, music or art, to ensure they get a mental break from their work endeavours. Research shows those students who keep up their interests in the lead up to assessments stand a better chance of doing well as it helps relieve stress and refreshes the mind. Of course, they will need to work smartly and with purpose but I have no doubt that they will respond favourably to challenges before them.

And finally, a reminder that Julia Sutcliffe will be presenting on US Universities on Tuesday 4th June in the library at 3:30pm-4:15pm. We hope that you can make it.

I hope that you have an enjoyable weekend.

Kind regards,

Iain Sutcliffe

Science Week Celebration:

A Journey Of Discovery and Innovation

From the 21st to the 24th of May, our school transformed into a hub of scientific exploration and innovation as we celebrated Science Week. The event was packed with engaging activities and events that captivated the imagination of both students and teachers. Here's a look back at the highlights of this incredible week:



Opening Ceremony: Plantable Pencils for a Greener Future

Our Science Week commenced with an inspiring opening ceremony where we distributed plantable pencils to all students and teachers. As a sustainable school, we are committed to fostering environmental stewardship.

Debate Competition: The Battle of Ideas

One of the most anticipated events was the Science Debate Competition. Students passionately argued on the scientific topic of 'electric vehicles', showcasing their critical thinking and public speaking skills. The debates were intense, thought-provoking, and demonstrated the depth of our students' knowledge and their ability to think on their feet.



We Are Scientists: Honouring Pioneers in Science

In the "We Are Scientists" event, our Junior School students dressed up as renowned scientists, honouring their groundbreaking discoveries and inventions.

We Are Experimenting: Hands-On Learning

The "We Are Experimenting" event allowed students to engage in hands-on experiments, fostering a spirit of inquiry and discovery. From simple chemical reactions to complex physics demonstrations, students explored the wonders of science through practical experiments.

Science Quiz: Testing Knowledge

Our Science Quiz was a thrilling test of knowledge, where students competed in teams to answer challenging questions across various scientific disciplines.



Science Exhibition: Showcasing Talent and Creativity

The Science Exhibition was a highlight of the week, featuring a wide array of exhibits created by students from Junior and Senior schools. The exhibits were a testament to their creativity, ingenuity, and scientific acumen.

Robotics Workshop: Building the Future

In the Robotics Workshop, students delved into the world of programming and coding to create functioning robots. This hands-on workshop was an exciting opportunity for students to apply their theoretical knowledge in a practical setting, fostering skills that are essential for the future.



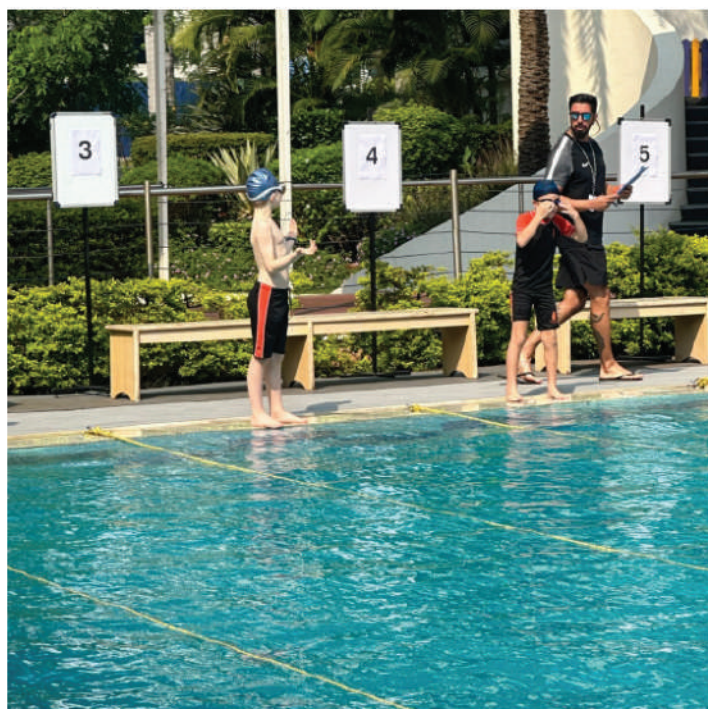
Science Week was a resounding success, filled with moments of learning, discovery, and inspiration. We look forward to more such enriching experiences in the future as we continue to nurture the scientific spirit in our school community.

Event Gallery

Junior School and Senior School Swimming Fixture

On Saturday May 18th, Wellington College International Pune was invited to Mahindra International School to participate in a Junior School and Senior School swimming fixture. The atmosphere was electric, and the event displayed spectacular sporting talent. Both sides delivered outstanding performances, showcasing the incredible progress our swim squad has made over the year.

The fixture was marked by exceptional sportsmanship and camaraderie, creating a wonderful spirit of competition. The presence of numerous parents, whose support and enthusiasm added to the excitement, made the event truly special.



We appreciate the exceptional hospitality and warm welcome extended to us by Mahindra International School, and we are eagerly looking forward to the prospect of arranging more events of this nature between the two schools. For both schools, our primary goal is to cultivate an environment of friendly competition and collaboration through sports, with sportsmanship and teamwork among all our pupils to the fore.

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